

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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USLOSACLANT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 4556

LIMDIS

5. TWO-WAY STREET. PECK ADVISED AGAINST FLOATING A PAPER IN THE NAC WHICH INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS OF EUROGROUP ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY THE TWO-WAY STREET. FOR ONE THING, THIS COULD OFFER THE FRENCH AN EXCUSE TO BE OFFENDED AND OPT OUT. ALSO, THE TWO-WAY STREET INITIATIVE IS STILL AN INTERNAL EUROGROUP AFFAIR AND THE RESULTS WILL NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO NATO UNTIL THE DECEMBER DPC MINISTERIAL. THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER THE TWO-WAY STREET EVENTUALLY, BUT TO RAISE IT IN THE NAC IN SEPTEMBER, OR WITH THE FRENCH, WOULD BE PREMATURE AND COULD RAISE FRENCH SUSPICIONS AS TO US/UK COLLUSION. PECK HINTED THAT EUROGROUP MIGHT EVENTUALLY MOVE THE TWO-WAY STREET OUTSIDE EUROGROUP VENUE.

6. POSITIONS OF OTHER ALLIES. PECK SEEMED TO THINK THAT ITALY MIGHT GO ALONG WITH STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVE, BUT NOTED THE DIFFICULTY IN PREDICTING THAT COUNTRY'S REACTIONS. HE FELT THE GREEKS MIGHT GO ALONG, AS MIGHT THE TURKS WHO NOW FACE AN ARMAMENTS PROCUREMENT PROBLEM. CONFIDENTIAL

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7. AMB BRUCE LEFT COPY OF TALKING POINTS (PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A) WITH AN ATTACHMENT ENTITLED "US VIEWS ON ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATION" WHICH DREW ON PARAS 6A - H OF REF B.

8. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH PECK, ACTING DEFENSE ADVISOR MICHAEL LEGGEE UK ASKED TO TALK FURTHER WITH MISSION OFFICER ABOUT STANDARDIZATION ISSUES RAISED WITH PECK. LEGGEE SAT IN ON AUG 27 MEETING AND HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY PECK TO CONTACT US AGAIN TO REEMPHASIZE SEVERAL POINTS. FIRST, LEGGEE READ A FEW PARAS FROM A RECENT LETTER FROM MOD (HOCKADAY) TO UK DELEGATION. IN THIS LETTER, HOCKADAY PORTRAYED UK POSITION ON STANDARDIZATION AS BEING VERY CLOSE TO THAT OF THE US AND INDICATED THAT UK SOUGHT TO PURSUE COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS SO AS TO MESH WITH US IDEAS INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE. SECOND, LEGGEE POINTED OUT THE NEED TO ALLOW THE FRENCH EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE BUT THAT ANY EFFORT TO GET THEM INVOLVED IN DPC AFFAIRS WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. THIRD, LEGGEE STRESSED THE TIMING ASPECT, EXPLAINING THAT DE ROSE MIGHT NEED MORE TIME THAN WE HAD ALLOWED AND THAT WE SHOULD NOT GO THE NAC UNTIL DE ROSE HAD DONE WHAT HE COULD IN PARIS. IF THIS MEANT AN EXTRA WEEK OR SO, IT MIGHT BE WELL WORTH THE WAIT. FOURTH, LEGGEE COMMENTED THAT HE HAD NOT HAD A CHANCE TO STUDY THE ATTACHMENT "US VIEWS ON ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATION" BUT, FROM A TACTICAL VIEWPOINT, IT MIGHT BE BEST TO PRESENT THE NAC WITH A "BLAND" PAPER IN ORDER TO GAIN THE FIRST OBJECTIVE, THAT OF FORMING A STEERING COMMITTEE. MORE COMPLEX OR DIFFICULT ISSUES COULD BE TAKEN UP BY THAT COMMITTEE. FIFTH, THE UK ORIGINALLY FAVORED ASYG TUCKER AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE, BUT UK DELEGATION WILL RECOMMEND SUPPORTING THE US SELECTION OF DSYG PANSA. FINALLY, LEGGEE OBSERVED THAT UK THINKING ON STANDARDIZATION WAS VERY CLOSE TO THAT OF THE US AND WE COULD EXPECT SUPPORT FROM THE BRITISH QUARTER.

9. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR BRUCE MET WITH SYG LUNS ON AUG 26 TO ALERT HIM TO OUR PLANNED CONSULTATIONS AND GENERAL APPROACH. LUNS APPEARED RECEPTIVE AND IN AGREEMENT WITH OUR PROPOSAL OF NAC DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO FORMATION OF STEERING COMMITTEE. HE SUGGESTED WE TALK WITH ASYG TUCKER, WHICH ACTING DEFENSE ADVISOR BGEN SEIGLE DID THAT SAME DAY. TUCKER SUPPORTED THRUST OF OUR THINKING, WHICH WE OUTLINED ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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SUGGESTED ONLY THAT STEERING COMMITTEE ALSO INCLUDE A SENIOR REP FROM IMS.

10. WE PLAN TO CONSULT WITH AMB KRAPF (FRG) ON AUG 28 AND WILL REPORT IN SIMILAR DETAIL ON THAT MEETING. ON EXPANDING DISCUSSIONS TO INCLUDE OTHER ALLIES, WE PLAN TO FOLLOW UP ON PECK'S IDEA TO BROACH SUBJECT AT A PERMREPS' LUNCH SHORTLY BEFORE RAISING IT A TNAC. WE RECOMMEND BRINGING DE STAERCKE INTO OUR CONSULTATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON APPROVAL TO APPROACH DE STAERCKE FOLLOWING HIS RETURN. BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

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